

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 10-12.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Burga et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) the features of the negative pressure inducing configuration including an airflow obstacle wall part having a bending part formed at an air inflow side of the flying surface and a straight line part having an air bearing surface, as described in claim 1. With this arrangement, it is possible to make the rigidity of an air film high by making a spring pressure low. Hence, when the evaluation head falls down onto and slides on the surface of the magnetic disk, neither positive nor negative pressure occurs to the evaluation head. In addition, it is possible to make the spring pressure low against a designated rigidity of the air film pressure. Therefore, it is possible to make the bending angle θ_N of the suspension shown in FIG. 1 low.

The Burga et al. reference merely discloses a glide head with at least one rail including a tapered trailing end. The glide head flies with a pitch angle over the surface of the disk. By tapering the trailing ends of the rails of the slider, the lowest flying point of the glide head becomes the junction of the air bearing surface of the rails and the trailing end taper (see Abstract).

The Burga et al. reference does not disclose or suggest the negative pressure inducing configuration of the present invention as described in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9 are allowable over Burga et al.

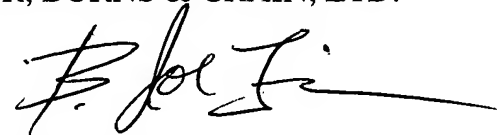
Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burga et al. in view of Ku et al. Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons given with respect to claim 1, from which claim 9 indirectly depends, and because of the additional features described in claim 9.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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